10. Memorandum of Understanding developed for better/concerted implementation of conservation inputs through tiger reserve States.

Financial steps

11. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger and Integrated Development of Wildlife habitats for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection of wild animals.

International Cooperation

12. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.

13. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

14. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at The Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, with directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. The resolution was adopted as a decision with minor amendments. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance on continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.

Reintroduction of Tigers in Sariska Tiger Reserve

15. A male tiger and a tigress have been reintroduced in the Sariska Tiger Reserve (Rajasthan), based on a recovery strategy suggested by the Wildlife Institute of India. The tigers are being closely monitored by radio telemetry.

Creation of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF)

16. The policy initiatives announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 29.2.2008, *interalia,* contains action points relating to tiger protection. Based on the one time grant of Rs. 50.00 crore provided to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising, arming and deploying a Special Tiger Protection Force, the proposal for the said force has been approved by the competent authority for 13 tiger reserves. Advisory has been sent to Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand for initiating steps for deploying in Dudhwa, Ranthambhore and Corbett tiger reserves, with 100% Central assistance during the current financial year.

Defective ATMs

†*152. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that due to defective Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) of many public sector banks, consumers are often unable to withdraw their deposited money from ATMs and they are facing many difficulties;

(b) whether there is any shortage of technical employees to repair ATMs; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to ensure smooth functioning of ATMs and to protect the interests of depositors?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Public Sector Banks endeavour to maintain uninterrupted functioning of their ATM services. However, a few instances of difficulties being faced by customers in operation of these ATMs on account of network connectivity, power failure, hardware problems, shortage of currency during continuous holidays etc. have been reported. To be able to rectify these problems urgently, most of the Banks have Enterprise Monitoring Tools (EMT) which give the signal to the ATM Monitor Centre of the Bank about the cash drain out, power failure including UPS, hardware failure, connectivity failure and exhaustion of paper rolls, etc.

Bank have provided dedicated 24×7 toll free phone numbers with Help Desk, which enable them to proactively monitor all ATM related issues. Individual Banks have appointed well-established and qualified companies with skilled manpower and requisite technical expertise for managing and servicing of ATMs network throughout the country. The performance of ATMs is evaluated on a regular basis and wherever needed old ATMs are replaced with new ATMs so as to ensure their smooth functioning.

Depiction of violence, obscenity and vulgarity on TV

*153. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that depiction of violence, obscenity and vulgarity on the television (TV) is increasing;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to check depiction of violence, obscenity and vulgarity on the television; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) Under Rule 6(1) (a) and (d) of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994, the depiction of obscenity and vulgarity on television is prohibited. Under Rule 6(1)(e) of the Cable Rules, any programme likely to encourage or incite violence is also prohibited. The attention of Government has been drawn to violations of the above provisions from time to time though no formal study has been brought to the notice of Government regarding an increasing trend.